

MINUTES

SPECIAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING
@ North Haven Memorial Library
Community Room

MAY 1, 2007

A special meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 1 p.m., by First Selectman, Kevin J. Kopetz. Also present were William F. Mitchell and Janet M. McCarty. Mr. Kopetz read the following two items on the agenda:

1. Discuss the employment of public employees, Patricia C. and Joseph J. Ierardi, their applications to retire under the Town of North Haven Amended and Restated Pension Plan for General Employees, and the Town's obligations, rights and options, pursuant to applicable agreements, plans, policies and laws.
2. Consider whether to convene in executive session to discuss the employment of public employees, Patricia C. and Joseph J. Ierardi, their applications to retire under the Town of North Haven Amended and Restated Pension Plan for General Employees, and the Town's obligations, rights and options, pursuant to applicable agreements, plans, policies and laws.

Mr. Kopetz explained that the decision to conduct this business in open or executive session is not a foregone conclusion, but is open for discussion. Letters were mailed to the Ierardis, who were present in the audience, regarding this meeting. The Town has not heard from them requesting an open meeting, which is their right.

Attorney George O'Brien and Town Attorney, Jeffrey Donofrio, were present to represent the Town of North Haven and were asked by Mr. Kopetz for input, as to whether the agenda items should be discussed in executive session. Mr. O'Brien indicated that discussions include legal matters pertaining to the criminal proceedings and potential liability for the Town. Mr. Donofrio added that he preferred the discussion of the employment matters on the agenda occur in executive session, so that more candid discussions could occur and the financial interest of the Town could be protected. Both advised the Board to convene in executive session.

Mr. Kopetz explained that the Town retained special labor counsel for these matters, and he feels that disregarding their advice would be counterproductive. He added that the matter is for discussion only, and any action would occur in open session.

At this time, representatives of WFSB Channel 3 and the New Haven Register spoke out of order to protest the decision.

Mr. Kopetz moved to convene an executive session on the advice of counsel to discuss the agenda items. Ms. McCarty expressed that she prefers an open session, as the public has the right to learn all that the Selectmen learn. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-no.

At 1:10 p.m., the Selectmen adjourned to an executive session. Present in the executive session were: Mr. Kopetz, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. McCarty, Attorney Donofrio and Attorney O'Brien.

At 3:20 p.m., Mr. Mitchell moved to adjourn the executive session and reconvene the open session. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes

Mr. Mitchell moved for adjournment at 3:21 p.m. Voted: Kopetz-yes, Mitchell-yes, McCarty-yes